

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05670 171700Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-20

NSC-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PRS-01 PA-04 ARAE-00 DRC-01 /076 W

----- 043271

O 171615Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 318

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5670

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SOCI, PFOR, CI, US

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF FATHER ROBERT PLASKER

REF: SANTIAGO 5621

1. SUMMARY: FATHER PLASKER'S EXPULSION UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES EMBARRASSING TO EMBASSY MAY IMPEDE SOLUTION OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM AND POSSIBLY INCREASE DIFFICULTIES OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. SANTIAGO PRESS AND RADIO SEPT 17 CARRY REPORT THAT GOC HAS REAFFIRMED ITS EXPULSION ORDER FOR FATHER PLASKER, DESCRIBED AS A US CLERIC OF ST. GORGE'S SCHOOL. PLASKER ACCUSED OF CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, ALL REPORTS STATE HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN JANUARY 1974 BUT THE EXPULSION ORDER HAD BEEN SUSPENDED BY REQUEST OF THE US EMBASSY. PLASKER NOW SCHEDULED TO LEAVE COUNTRY THIS EVENING SEPT 17.

3. AT HIS REQUEST PLASKER MET WITH INTERIOR SUBSECRETARY COL. ENRIQUE MONTERO AFTERNOON SEPT 16. IGNACIO WALKER, ATTORNEY FOR HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION, WAS PRESENT. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT GIVEN BY PLASKER TO OUR CONSULAR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05670 171700Z

OFFICER, MONTERO WAS FURIOUS WITH PLASKER: ACCUSED HIM

OF BREAKING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE US EMBASSY TO EFFECT THAT PLASKER WOULD DEPART VOLUNTARILY AND NOT RETURN. MONTERO CONSIDERED PLASKER'S RETURN SEPT 2 AS HAVING BROKEN THE AGREEMENT AND AS JUSTIFYING PRESENT EXPULSION ORDER.

4. PLASKER REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE HAD NEVER CONCURRED IN ANY SUCH AGREEMENT AND WAS NOT AND WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO ONE. (HE LATER TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HE WAS INDIRECTLY AWARE THAT CARDINAL SILVA HAD BEEN IN FAVOR OF A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT.) IN CONVERSATION WITH MONTERO, PLASKER AND WALKER REFERRED TO FATHER HESBURGH'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM WOULD BE WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY, AND ASKED WHY IN LIGHT OF THIS FATHER PLASKER WAS BEING EXPELLED. MONTERO REPLIED HE KNEW NOTHING OF ST. GEORGE'S ARRANGEMENTS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO PLASKER'S EXPULSION BUT WOULD INVESTIGATE.

5. PLASKER ASKED HOW HE COULD GET HIS EXPULSION ORDER RECONSIDERED, AND MONTERO SUGGESTED HIS LAWYER DEAL DIRECTLY WITH HIM (MONTERO). ACCORDING TO PLASKER, MONTERO NEVER GAVE A SPECIFIC REASON FOR THE EXPULSION. PLASKER IS AWARE THAT THE ORDER HAS NOT BEEN RESCINDED AND SAYS HE WILL LEAVE COUNTRY SEPT 17 UNLESS HE HEARS TO CONTRARY DURING THE DAY.

6. COMMENT: IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND HOW PLASKER COULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT THIS EMBASSY WOULD WORK UNREMITTINGLY TO STAVE OFF AN EXPULSION ORDER AGAINST HIM, AS WE DID, SO THAT HE MIGHT LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME, WITHOUT CONCLUDING THAT HE WOULD BE GUILTY OF BAD FAITH IF HE RETURNED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. GOVERNMENT'S UNHAPPINESS WITH HIS RETURN IS INDICATED BY ITS PUBLICATION OF FACT THAT EMBASSY PROTECTED PLASKER KNOWING THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED HIM OR HIS ACTIVITIES UNDESIRABLE. MOREOVER, SETTLEMENT OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM WILL NOT BE ACCELERATED BY PLASKER'S ASSUMPTION THAT THIS SETTLEMENT WILL SOMEHOW PROTECT HIS RIGHT TO REMAIN IN CHILE -- WHEN AS WE UNDERSTAND IT BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05670 171700Z

FATHER HESBURGH AND CARDINAL SILVA HAVE AGREED THAT ONE ELEMENT IN THE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE THE REMOVAL OF ALL CONTROVERSIAL HOLY CROSS PERSONNEL. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO STRAIGHTEN ALL THIS OUT WITH COL. MONTERO AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES, BUT I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT I BELIEVE THIS SMALL EPISODE WILL ENHANCE OUR DIFFICULTIES IN PROTECTING OTHER AMERICANS, NOTABLY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, AGAINST WHO ACCORDING TO NEW REPORTS THE GOVERNMENT MAY

YET MOVE. (WE HAVE BEEN TANGLING WITH THE SAME SECURITY
OFFICIALS ON THEIR BEHALF.)
POPPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, NATIONALIZATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, CHURCH SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA05670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740260-0487
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740938/aaaabgli.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIAGO 5621
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPULSION OF FATHER ROBERT PLASKER
TAGS: SOCI, PFOR, CASC, PINT, CI, US, ST GEORGES SCHOOL, HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION, (PLASKER, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005